

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (FL-16) today issued the following statement honoring President Ronald Reagan, who would have turned 100 on Sunday, February 6:

“President Reagan is known as The Great Communicator, though he modestly said he just communicated great things. Both were true. He believed in America as that shining city on the hill, the greatest country in the history of the world, and he made no apologies for that greatness.

“President Reagan brought hope not just to a nation but to an entire world. He reminded us that as a country, we have a mission, and that mission has nothing to do with economic might or military prowess.

“He said, *‘We are a nation of freedom, living under God, believing all citizens must have the opportunity to grow, create wealth, and build a better life for those who follow. If we live up to those moral values, we can keep the American dream alive for our children and our grandchildren, and America will remain mankind's best hope.’*

“He won the Cold War by being unafraid to cast communism as evil and by working tirelessly to defeat it. While media elites dismissed his blunt descriptions, he never backed down from his clear delineation between right and wrong, good and evil. Yet he remained a gracious statesman, laying the foundation for a peaceful end to the Soviet Union.

“If President Reagan were alive today, I believe he would remind us again that there is no choice between left and right, only between up and down. He would appeal to our better instincts to work together and solve the problems of our time, not by expanding government but by expanding economic freedom. He would remind us that government isn’t the answer; the American people are.

“He would inspire hope that we can and will make it through these dark economic days because, as he put it, *‘. . . One of the worst mistakes anybody can make is to bet against Americans.’*

“Ronald Reagan reminds us what makes America great. He reminds us to be proud to be Americans, not just because of who we are now but who we have been and who we can be. Because, *‘In a world wracked by hatred, economic crisis, and political tension, America remains mankind's best hope.’*”

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